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Eminem Arraigned On Assault, Concealed Weapons Charges

The Detroit rapper released on $100,000 bond; hearing set for July 11.

By archive-Eric-Schumacher-Rasmussen
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The same day that he held off fellow Detroiter **Kid Rock** for the #1 spot on the *Billboard* 200 albums chart, a handcuffed **Eminem** was arraigned Wednesday (June 7) in Warren, Mich., on charges stemming from a fight outside a suburban Detroit nightclub early Sunday morning.

He stood mute before the court, and a not guilty plea to one count of carrying a concealed weapon and one felony count of assault with a dangerous weapon was entered on his behalf.

If convicted, the country's top-selling rapper faces up to five years in prison on the concealed weapon charge and up to four years on the assault charge. Eminem (born Marshall Mathers) is free on a $100,000 cash bond.

The rapper also must turn over to police any guns and knives he owns, and must provide prosecutors and police with his location should he leave the state.

Wearing a black blazer over a navy blue shirt with a gray tie, Eminem appeared uncomfortable as 37th District Court Judge Susan Chrzanowski asked him to identify himself.

The arraignment, originally scheduled for 3 p.m. EDT, began at 2:25 after the rapper, accompanied by three attorneys and two bodyguards, arrived at the Warren Police headquarters at 2 p.m. He entered the headquarters through a tunnel usually reserved for police and was taken alone into the police station where he was formally booked on the charges.

After booking, he was led through the tunnel into the courthouse next door. About 60 onlookers watched as he was formally arraigned on the charges. Eminem's wife, Kimberly Mathers, was not present.

Postponement Rejected

Rejecting a motion by Eminem's attorney to postpone his preliminary hearing for 60 days, the judge set the hearing for Tuesday, July 11, in front of 37th District Court judge Dawn Gruenburg. The judge then set the rapper's bond at $100,000, of which the rapper was required to post 10 percent to be released.

Asked if he waived his right to a preliminary hearing, Eminem said no. The rapper did not address the judge or reporters.

The judge also required that Eminem — who is set to join **Dr. Dre**, **Snoop Dogg** and others on the Up in Smoke tour beginning June 15 in the San Diego suburb Chula Vista, Calif. — provide the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office and police investigators with a daily itinerary of where he will be performing and staying.

Eminem posted the bond and left the scene in a van accompanied by his lawyers and bodyguards as about 70 fans and curious bystanders looked on.

The rapper was arrested Sunday after a fight broke out outside the Hot Rocks Café in Warren, about 15 miles north of Detroit. According to Harding, Eminem went to Hot Rocks to "spy on" Kimberly Mathers, who was at the club with another man.

At about 2:30 a.m. Sunday, Harding said Eminem saw his wife and this man kissing, and the rapper allegedly attacked the man with an unloaded gun. When police arrived, the alleged assault victim was holding the gun.

Eminem and the other man were taken into police custody on suspicion of carrying a concealed weapon. The other suspect was not charged, after prosecutors determined he had merely picked up Eminem's gun from the ground and was trying to keep it away from the rapper.

Public Address

Wednesday, the *Detroit Free Press* printed a letter from Eminem's wife, Kimberly Mathers, who also was arrested in the incident and arraigned Monday on a disorderly conduct charge.

In the letter, Mathers chides the media for writing about her private life. "Just because my husband is an entertainer, that does not mean that our personal business is for everyone's entertainment purposes," she wrote. "But since the press thinks that it is, then they should get their story straight."

While she acknowledges that Eminem came to the Hot Rocks Café nightclub to "check up" on her, she denies that she is romantically involved with another man. "If I was to cheat on him, it wouldn't be in a neighborhood bar where he knows I am," she wrote. "Had he asked any questions before he flew off the handle, he would have realized that everyone with me ... were only friends. The fact that he just jumped to conclusions has gotten him and myself in trouble."

She went on to write that her husband "has no problem trying to make me look like an unfaithful wife" but that she ignores pictures of him with other women that are printed in magazines. "I have always taken his word on things and stood by his side," she wrote. "Even after the whole situation up at Hot Rocks, I tried to defend him."

The newspaper also reported Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga as saying that even if the rapper is convicted, he would likely face no more than 17 months in prison, as he has no prior offenses.

Eminem's second album, *The Marshall Mathers LP*, stayed in the #1 spot on the *Billboard* 200 albums chart for the second straight week, selling 793,713 copies after a debut week in which it sold 1.76 million. It was the biggest-selling debut week in history for a solo artist.

(Correspondent Norb Franz contributed to this story.)